(b) Electronic copies of the Annual Supplement and the Foreign Trade Policy are available on the DGFT web-site and can be accessed at http:/ /www.dgft.gov.in/. Copies of these documents are also available in the Parliament Library. Following are the key highlights of the new initiatives:

(i) Focus products and focus market schemes introduced to promote exports of products having large employment potential and penetration of strategic markets by Indian products.

(ii) The export of village and cottage industries products have been incentivised by including these products in the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

(iii) A new Duty Neutralize Scheme called duty free import authorisation scheme has been introduced with the primary objective reducing working capital requirements of exporters who import most of their inputs.

(iv) A number of features have been introduced in the Served from India Scheme to promote Service Exports.

(v) A number of initiatives have been taken to facilitate emergence of India as Gems & Jewellery hub.

(c) Enhancing the competitiveness of Indian exports and generating additional units of employment are the two important themes of Foreign Trade Policy. Since exports have become an important part of Indian economy, high productivity and competitiveness in export sector will benefit the entire economy.

Marine exports

2557. DR. S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to expand the scope of marine exports from the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that MPEDA has not been able to go beyond traditional exports for the last two decades;

(c) what plans and steps does MPEDA have to increase value-added exports from the country; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by MPEDA to arrange inspection facilities for new marine exports and value-added exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to increase the export of marine products, Government have been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices; assistance for production of value-added products for export; and marketing support.

(b) The export figures of marine products for the last two decades indicate that India has not been able to make much headway in increasing the export of value added products.

(c) In order to increase the export of value added marine products, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, assistance for production of value added products and marketing support etc.

(d) The standards for seafood processing units are fixed by MPEDA. The seafood processing units are also monitored by MPEDA to ensure that they meet the laid down standards. MPEDA is also a member of the Inter-Departmental Panel for approving the seafood processing establishments.

Growth of exports

2558. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated growth rate of exports during 2006-07.

(b) the share of IT, Services, traditional items, Manufacturing Sector, etc. in exports; and

(c) the share of agriculture-based products during 2004-05 and how much growth was there in the first nine months of 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) It is expected that exports would grow at around 20% during 2006-07 over the previous year.

(b) Export of services and software do not form part of merchandise exports. According to the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India on balance of payments statistics, Service exports upto April—December 2005-06 were valued at US $ 41 billion of which export of software services